

INSIDE TODAY
U.S. NEWS

WASTING TIME



President Barack Obama listens as Vice President Joe Biden speaks to mayors from cities across the United States, Friday, Feb. 20, 2009, in the East Room of the White House.

See INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SPORTS NEWS

BIG SISTER STRIKES



Venus Williams from the U.S. returns the ball to her sister Serena Williams during the semi finals of the Dubai WTA Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Friday, Feb. 20, 2009.

See Sports Today

Aruba's Carnival Climaxes This Weekend



By: Darrell Busby

Special to Aruba Today

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's Carnival swings into high gear this weekend, as thousands of people from the Netherlands Antilles, the Netherlands and the USA join Arubans as they all culminate on the island to celebrate their 55th anniversary of playing mass Aruba style.

The main events take place this weekend, starting earlier this morning with the J'ouvert morning which means (Day Break) jump-up in San Nicolas, where thousands of people will gathered on the streets as they par took in the early morning party through the streets of San Nicolas. The J'ouvert began at 4AM and ended at sunrise. The Party doesn't stop there; everybody keeps the party going until the main parade in San Nicolas starts, where everybody will party till sundown again. This Saturday evening thousands of people flock to downtown to finish some minor decoration on their trailer which you can see lined up along the main BLVD and hangs out with friends, while they all eat and drink awaiting the parade.

Then on Sunday, February 22 starting at 11AM is Aruba's 55th Grand Carnival Parade in Oranjestad. This is the largest

carnival parade through Oranjestad, on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. This parade is filled with music and luxurious floats and costumes, in various designs and decorated with a wide variety of colorful stones and feathers, creating a unique display. This is considered Aruba's main event.

If you get to experience this landmark event which marks Aruba's 55th anniversary celebrating the carnival you will be one of the lucky ones.

Are you in or are you out???

~ Photo by Julia Renfro ~

Premium Chicken Line
Crispy or Grilled



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Washington Celebrates Carnival 55



WASHINGTON-On Friday February 19, 2009 the school of Basico Washington celebrated with a grand Carnival Parade. The day began with Carnival guest speakers- Jubi Narr, Evy Raven (ex- Carnival Queen), Jeremy Lampe (steelpan Player) and Jerino Ridderstap. These speakers talked to the children of how Carnival began and what made it so magical.

The teachers at School Basico Washington (SBW) were in full gear with their students with over a week of preparing the best carnival classroom and best Carnival Slogan. Each class had their own Queen & Prince & Pancho that was chosen through a competition of dance. This years Queen teacher was Juffrow Niurcu and the Prince & Pancho was Mr. Benny.

The 500 students enjoyed a



full hour of Carnival music with Youth X-treme as they all danced to the beat with laughter and joy. SBW was very excited to have Youth X-treme at the school. SBW had entered the Youth Xtreme Bike Tour a couple weeks ago and

won 1st prize which included a free hour of the popular Carnival band. As you can see in the photos these children love CARNIVAL 55. Have a safe and wonderful Carnival 55 from the staff at SBW !!! □

NEW ARRIVALS

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WWW.FERRAGAMO.COM

Tune in to Tele Aruba on Sunday & Monday

Special Program To Announce The Construction Of Ritz Carlton Resort In Aruba



ORANJESTAD - In connection with the recent announcement concerning the construction of a 5-star hotel Ritz Carlton in Aruba which will lead to a 360 Million guilder investment, there will be a TV program airing on Tele Aruba.

The program will show Prime Minister

Nelson Oduber's speech and also, President of Marriott International Mr. Bill Marriott, Mr. Walter Stipa of Ritz Carlton, and Minister of Tourism Mr. Edison Briesen. The program is scheduled for Sunday night at 7:30 and will be repeated on Monday night at 7:30 and 10:00pm. □



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Anything to Sell?
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at 965-9526



As announced during General Assembly

AHATA seeks to safeguard Aruba's tourism through promotion, continued dialogue



ORANJESTAD – The Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) reconfirmed its 2009 goals during the General Assembly of its members, held recently at the Marriott Aruba. AHATA CEO & President Rob Smith addressed current challenges as well as outlined the association's efforts of establishing a strong marketing presence, continued

dialogue with the public sector for advocacy goals, and ongoing cooperative efforts in reaching sustainable tourism objectives.

“The consequences are already being felt by the economic downturn, but there remains opportunities through continued promotion of the island to ensure that we do are best to mitigate the shortfalls.

We must also continue the dialogue of our advocacy efforts with current proposed changes to labor and tax laws,” explains Rob Smith. “We are active not only in marketing the island of Aruba, but in keeping abreast and active on measures that affect the health of our industry and the well-being of the island’s economy. Continued increases in taxation burden will not only affect the competitiveness of our destination at a time of worldwide economic strife, it could also affect the viability of the assets we represent.

In keeping the association on track toward reaching its goals, the new AHATA board for 2009 was officially installed. The new board consists of Chairman Rick Zeolla (Aruba Marriott), First Vice-Chair Alex Nieuwmeyer (Divi), Second Vice-Chair Warren Stanley (De Palm Tours), Treasurer Javier Wolter (CMB), Secretary Ewald Biemans (Bucuti), and Directors Susan Santiago (Hyatt Regency Aruba), Eduardo de Veer (Renaissance Aruba), Richard Roy (Westin), Louis Phillippe (Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort), Gary Jutz (Radisson Aruba), Joe Najjar (La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club), Edgar Roelofs (Manchebo) and Andres Pichardo (Occidental Grand). The majority of AHATA members were represented during the assembly, with attendance by numerous professionals in tourism and its related industries. Guest speakers included Myrna Jansen from the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA), and Peggy Croes from the Aruba Airport Authority (AAA). For AHATA, additional speakers included Colleen LesSard --



pitch hitting for Sanju Luidens (while on maternity leave) – providing an overview on marketing efforts including show participation, airlift support and advertising, and Doreen Kralick on membership affairs, with new members for 2009 including Boolchand’s, The Village and Morgan’s Island waterpark.

“Armed with the enormous amount of expertise represented by our members and partners, and a strong board, we maintain an informed and active role in ensuring Aruba remains a top tourism destination, under any given circumstances,” comments Smith.

The overall conversation contributed to a better understanding of the island’s position with the current economic state of affairs, as well as the opportunities still available through combined,

proactive efforts. After an informative session, AHATA members and guests mixed and mingled to further discuss topics, both business- and community-related, in the social environment afforded by AHATA’s “Networking in Style” event.

AHATA, whose member companies run the wide breadth of the tourism industry, from large hotel properties and timeshare resorts to activity companies and small service providers, utilizes the combined strength and knowledge of its members in supporting positive change locally as well as in acting internationally in carrying out marketing support for the destination of Aruba. AHATA, in cooperation with the Aruba Tourism Authority, is also responsible for the Aruba Convention Bureau in the U.S. □



Private Residence Club at Tierra del Sol Resort, Spa and Country Club

Anabui joins luxury exchange program

The Registry Collection® Exchange Program, the world's largest luxury exchange program offered by Group RCI, the worldwide leader in vacation exchange and the European leader in vacation rentals and one of the Wyndham Worldwide family of brands (NYSE: WYN), today announced new affiliations with three new luxury resorts which will become part of The Registry Collection's network of more than 130 affiliates. The new resorts include Sugar Loaf Ocean Club & Spa in Uruguay, Anabui – Private Residence Club at Tierra del Sol Resort, Spa and Country Club in Aruba, and The Charleston Club, Daniel Island in South Carolina. "We're extremely excited to welcome these three extraordinary properties to The Registry Collection exchange program," commented Geoff Ballotti, President and CEO, Group RCI. "From golf courses designed by such notables as Robert Trent Jones and Tom Fazio... to world class tennis and dining facilities, each resort boasts incredible features that epitomize the vacation experiences we offer our more than 30,000 Registry Collection members through this elite global network." The Sugar Loaf Ocean Club & Spa, located on the coastline of Uruguay, expects to offer 114 luxury chalets with breathtaking views of the ocean or the spectacular mountains that surround Piriapolis with the first phase anticipated to open in December 2009. The first affiliate in the Rio de la Plata zone, one of the most emblematic tourist destinations in South America, the affiliation is a key milestone and reaffirmation of The Registry Collection exchange program's growth and commitment to securing a truly worldwide network of high-end leisure properties. Anabui Private Residence Club at Tierra del Sol, located on the northwest coast of Aruba, currently has seven units under construction which should be available by

January of 2010. The gated community features relaxed yet elegant units that will have three luxurious bedrooms and two and a half baths. Owners will have access to a private pool, the Canchas del Sol tennis courts, fitness center, the Body & Soul Spa, and golf. Tierra del Sol features the only 18-hole championship PGA Golf Course on the island of Aruba. The course, designed by Robert Trent Jones II, overlooks the majestic Caribbean Sea, giving guests an unusual golfing experience. The course is adjacent to a pro shop, bar and grill, and four-star restaurant. The Charleston Club, Daniel Island, situated near Charleston's historic district, consists of eight luxury penthouse residences, each with three spacious bedrooms and three bathrooms. Ownership in The Charleston Club includes access to The Daniel Island Club, the world class Family Circle Cup Tennis Center, two beautiful pool complexes, bicycles and bicycle trails, fishing equipment, a spa and well-equipped fitness center. The resort also boasts 18-hole golf courses designed by Rees Jones and Tom Fazio.

About The Registry Collection
The Registry Collection program is a global network comprising over 30,000 members and more than 130 affiliates on five continents. As the world's largest luxury exchange program, the Registry Collection program provides members with access to an elite global network of the very finest vacation properties at some of the world's premier destinations, as well as personal concierge services that are available 24 hours a day. From condo hotels and high-end fractional resorts to private residence clubs and fractional yachts, The Registry Collection program facilitates exchanges around the world and redefines the vacation experience for owners and developers.

The Registry Collection program is offered by Group



RCI, the worldwide leader in vacation exchange and the European leader in vacation rentals and one of the Wyndham Worldwide family of companies. □



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from St. Maarten

Saturday, February 21st at 8 pm.



As Tradition Dictates

Metacare Celebrated Carnival In A Valentines Day Ambience



ORANJESTAD, Aruba – Like tradition dictates, this year MetaCare held its carnival celebration together with its kids.

The childcare center founded for the employees of MetaCorp and its Subsidiaries held their annual carnival in a Valentine's Day ambience.

During this carnival celebration the current Junior Carnival Queen of Aruba, Ziazian Goeloe, youth "Pauper" of Aruba, Agmir Bontekoe, King of Tumberito of Aruba, Jonathan Croes and Queen of Tumba for Aruba, Mrs. Anoushka Odor-Jeandor were all in attendance. They all made their presentation and had fun with the kids of

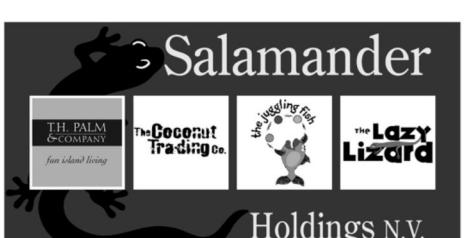
MetaCare. At the end of the afternoon, Franceline de la Cruz was elected as the Baby Princess between the age of 1 and 2; and Zevon Vrolijk and Renard Deluvia were elected "Prince & Pauper" in the same category. As Little Princess between the ages of 3 and 4, Claryleen de Cuba was elected and Axel Lindeborg and Rudson Calmes were chosen as her "Prince and Pauper".

Treshka Nedd was elected as the Queen of MetaCare between the age of 4 and 12 and her "Prince & Pauper" were Shaquelle Patrick and Keith Kock. The leaders that organized this magnificent event were Mariana Oduber & Julianne Loefstop.



MetaCare is a project of MetaCorp that was founded in 1996, were employees who work at subsidiary companies of MetaCorp can take their kids, 1-year and older till the age of 13 to pass the day, while they are at work.

The care-center is open from 6:30 in the morning till 6:30 in the afternoon, and takes care of babies from 1-years old to teenagers age 13. In all, they have 115 kids that attend MetaCare daily under tutelage/ supervision of 14 professional care-takers. MateCare is situated in Sabana Blanco and is subsidized by MetaCorp as a second benefit to employees of Metacorp and its subsidiaries.



We have our stores OPEN for you to shop
During CARNIVAL WEEKEND!!

Sunday, February 22nd

The Juggling Fish

At Playa Linda on the Beach Side
At Divi Tamarijn
At Aruba Beach Club

The Lazy Lizard

At South Beach Mall
At Moomba Beach

The Mill Minimarket at The Mill Resort

The Coconut Trading Co.
At Marriott Ocean Club
T.H. Palm & Company at Playa Linda

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Closed

9:00 AM - 10:00 PM
9:00 AM - 8:00 PM
9 AM - 1 PM & 4 PM - 8 PM

10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
9:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Monday, February 23rd

The Juggling Fish

At Playa Linda on the Beach Side
At Divi Tamarijn
At Aruba Beach Club

The Lazy Lizard

At South Beach Mall
At Moomba Beach

The Mill Minimarket at The Mill Resort

The Coconut Trading Co.
At Marriott Ocean Club
T.H. Palm & Company at Playa Linda

9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
9 AM - 1 PM & 2 PM - 6 PM

9:00 AM - 10:00 PM
8:30 AM - 8:00 PM
9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
9:00 AM - 10:00 PM

INVENTORY MEGA SALE
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ANTIQUESHOP ROCOCO PLAZA
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20 Showrooms with furniture and decoration

“Aruhiba” Aruba’s homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called ‘Aruhiba’. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of “Aruhiba” cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi’s dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo ‘Aruhiba’ and ‘Made in Aruba’. Petrochi considers ‘Aruhiba’ a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch



Windmill from 9am to 8pm. Open on Sunday. And also at Tamarijn: open 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 1pm.

The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted.

We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum. Call 586-7833 or 593-6177. Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space. Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.



Carnival Bash Bingo

Monday, February 23rd starting at 1:00pm

Progressive within 50 calls

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Progressive within 51 calls: Awg. 500.00

Progressive within 52 calls or more: Awg. 350.00

Full Card = Awg. 750.00

• Double your prize with **POWERBALL G-55**

• Wear your Carnival Costume
and win **Bonus \$75.00** when
you call BINGO!

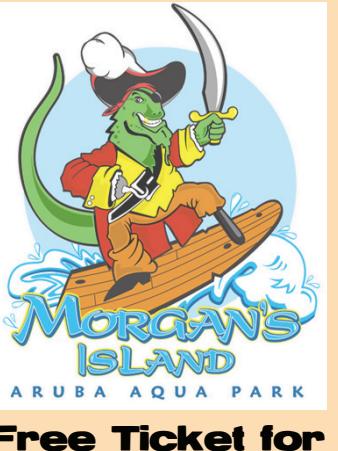
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Seafood & Grill Dining

Enjoy wonderful cuisine as you dine in this unique American steakhouse with a Caribbean flair.

Two diverse culinary worlds are offered: exotic Caribbean food and cowboy-size servings of USDA-certified Black Angus Beef.

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Pay just 1/2 price for the first bottle of wine any Tuesday from 6-7:30p.m., with a three-course dinner, two persons minimum.



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ristorante**

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Enjoy a free birthday dinner (food only, three-course dinner) with a minimum of four persons - ID required.



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As good as it gets

Exquisite Seafood & Cocktails tonight at Moby Dick's

PASEO HERENCIA - Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall. The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste.

Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu



for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!

**For More information
and Reservations
Call: 586 8333**



Beachside Dining in that 'just right' atmosphere
Matthew's gets it right



EAGLE BEACH - Located at Casa del Mar resort in Eagle Beach, Matthew's is the brain child of Stefan Legger, who owned and operated Rumba Bar & Grill for 6 years. Matthew's redefines the concept of a beachside restaurant, delivering an exquisite blend of fine dining and comfort food with that 'sand on your toes' feeling. The staff is extremely friendly and demonstrate very clearly that they are there for one thing; you.

Also being a very wanted venue for events and weddings, it is very advisable to call and make a reservation, but if you want to just give it a go, no problem. Matthew's has a great bar which will keep you abreast of all the action, whether it's sports on one of their 3 TV's, or what cocktails the bartenders can whip up for you. Besides breakfast, lunch and dinner, Matthew's offers all you can eat spare ribs on Tuesdays, Champagne brunch on Sundays and of course their famous daily happy hours with live music at the bar.



Opening Hours
Daily from 7:30am till 10:00pm

Daily Happy Hours
Noon - 1:00pm
4:00pm - 6:00pm (with live music)
9:00pm - 10:00pm

For Reservations & Information call:
Tel: 588 7300

The trendiest coffees on Aruba
Segafredo at South Beach Centre

PALM BEACH - Recently Segafredo very quietly opened its doors in the new South Beach Mall, right across from the High Rise Hotels. They have been a raving success from day one, not a surprise to anyone as Segafredo is one of the world's trendiest and recognized coffee brands.

Segafredo is opened from 6AM for the early starters until midnight. You'll find the Grand Opening Specials below, they are made just for you! They will serve you the best Segafredo coffees during the morning to get you going, during lunch you will find fresh panini sandwiches, pizza, lasagna and salads. Night time at Segafredo's promises special coffees, martinis, longdrinks and of course beer on one of the trendiest locations on the island. General Manager Maarten Alberts has trained his staff to utter perfection on how to make the best coffees, and it shows. Served by the most courteous staff on the island, the morning espressos and cappuccinos are put in front of you with every attention to detail. We invite you to start your day in the best way possible; at Segafredo.



Grand Opening Specials

**Segafredo
ESPRESSO
PALM BEACH**

BUY ANY BREAKFAST GET ONE FREE
HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY from 6pm - 8pm
BUY ANY SPECIAL COFFEE GET ONE FREE

Located at the South Beach Mall in Palm Beach #55 | Open Daily from 6am to 10pm | Tel: 743-8897 - 586-7483

Experience authentic regional ambiance every Friday evening at Pam-Pam Café

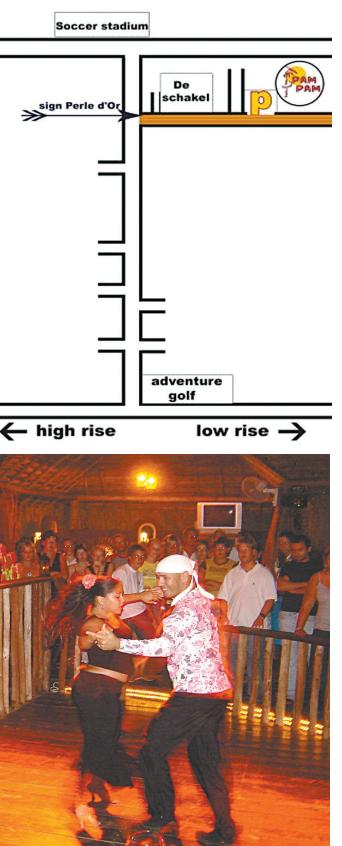


Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably priced snacks (10.50 in Aruban florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among



florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced, and main courses, (25) which are priced between \$13 / \$22.

Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently,

in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance.

When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com
Phone: 5877710 or 5932660



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Super Bingo Saturday!

Super 4-Card Bingo starting at 1pm!

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Open daily 6pm to 2am
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Happy Anniversary to Ambassadors of Aruba

Ed & Kathy Nusbaum celebrate 20 years of matrimony

NOORD—On Wednesday February 17, 2009 a very familiar family walked through the doors at Buccaneer Restaurant. This lovely family was Ed and Kathy Nusbaum and their son Cody from Weston, Connecticut. This year Cody brought his best friend Casey O'Brien who is enjoying his first visit to the island. They are no strangers to Aruba with 29 years of returning to their home away from home. "We love Aruba for the friendly people and gorgeous weather, we love our resorts with A.B.C & Costa Linda and return every year to enjoy paradise", replied Kathy.

Ed & Kathy are celebrating 20 years of marriage; they celebrated at their favorite restaurant the Buccaneer which is an annual tradition for the past 29 years. Ed always loves the Duck entrée and decided to try the stuffed shrimp and loved his dinner but states that next year he wants his duck. Kathy's favorite is the appetizer Mushroom on toast and her son ate the ½ broiled chicken and Casey the poached Swordfish. The Buccaneer manager Vasty was happy to see them once again and recalls when Cody was just a baby and how fast he grew to be a young man. Happy Anniversary from the staff at Buccaneer Restaurant and have a safe trip home!!!□



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- Knowledge of Hardware Repairs and Maintenance
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- NFL • NCAA • NBA • NHL
- Golf • Boxing & much more...

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Sports Bar in
Seaport Casino
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The only Sports Bar on the island where you can drink, watch & place bets at the same time!

RACE & SPORTS BOOK
at Seaport Casino & Express at Crystal Casino

Phone: 523-6408 or 523-6451 - Windows opens at 11:00 a.m.

Parliament to get update on effects of financial crisis



WILLEMSTAD--The effects of the global financial meltdown on the Netherlands Antilles so far will be reported to the Central Committee of Parliament by Finance Minister Ersilia de Lannooy on Wednesday, February 25.

Parliament President Pedro Atacho said

via a teleconference this week that the finance minister will be accompanied by representatives of the Central Bank and the General Pension Fund APNA. Parliament has had periodic updates since the crisis began to intensify and the ripples have affected the Antilles. Parliament will receive information

earlier in the day about patient care offered by the Curaçao rehabilitation centre Brasami. Also on the agenda is a discussion about the package on civil servant pension rights.

The new general secretary of Parliament will take the oath of office Thursday afternoon.

The short week of meetings, due to Carnival celebrations in Curaçao, will close off with a visit to the government reformatory by the parliamentary committee on Public Health and Social Development on Friday at 2:00pm.

Meetings resume on Tuesday, March 2 with a presentation by Education Minister Omyra Leeflang and Finance Minister de Lannooy on the development at the University of the Netherlands Antilles (UNA) and related salary arguments.

The Kingdom Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Relation committee will continue its preparations for the upcoming tripartite parliamentary meeting with Surinam and Aruba. A meeting will be held with Public Health Minister Leeflang to see where cooperation is possible in this area among the three countries. A similar

session will be held with Economic Affairs Minister Elvis Tjin A Sjoe to see about cooperation in this area, Atacho told journalists gathered at parliament building.

The final point on parliament's agenda for the coming weeks is the formal exoneration of debts accumulated by Curaçao, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba in accordance with the Ys Cabinet's 2004 Urgency Plan.

Curaçao will get a reprieve from NAF. 95 million from the Netherlands Antilles up to December 31, 2004. This amount was incurred mainly on budget loans.

Bonaire's debt amounts to NAF. 5.4 million, Saba NAF. 3.1 million, and St. Eustatius NAF. 2.3 were incurred for premium payments to the Social Insurance Bank SVB for government employees and their families.

The debt exoneration will be formalized with the approval of four law proposals by the central committee of parliament on Wednesday, March 4.

Rounding off the law proposals on the table is the approval of the bankruptcy settlement on the Parker Hotel. □

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Nice family-or vacation home close to beaches and hotels on paved road. 3 bedr./2 bathr./1 bedr.apt./office/600m2 w. 176 m2 USD 295.000,-	Newly built home near beaches and hotels. 3 bedr./3 bathr./maids quarter/pool/730 m2/228 m2/ Completely fenced. US \$ 495.000,-	Gorgeous villa with pool in excellent location! 4 bedr. (incl. large studio) with 4 bath/laundry, storage,carport, 1179m2/270m2 built up US \$ 590.000,-	Beautiful Caribbean style home w.wrap-around porches, great views, 3 bedr. ,3 bathr./maidsquarter/ 1345 m2 land w. 365 m2 built-up. US \$ 393.000,-



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Bar Hopping with ECO DMS



ORANJESTAD -- Copa Airlines entertained a group of corporate movers and shakers on Aruba this week,

wining and dining the guests in great style. ECO DMS, Aruba's premier destination management company helped



whisk group members on a bar hopping trip on board Kukoo Kunucu, as part of their motivational experience. The VIPs, staying at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa were invited for



dinner at the Hyatt Regency, where they were picked up for an adventure of a lifetime,



escorted by Magali and Patricia of ECO DMS, representatives of the Radisson and the Aruba Tourism Authority. Salvador Garcia, the Copa Airlines executive reports that the group enjoyed hopping to U Wanna Beer, Chasers and Eyes Disco, and that they will go back to El Salvador to spread the word that Aruba is a fun spot and now also very accessible with Copa Airlines offering regular scheduled service. ECO Destination Services Management of Aruba NV is the only company exclusively devoted to developing, preparing and handling motivational experiences for your valued clients laced with creativity, and pizzazz, designed to deliver business results. □



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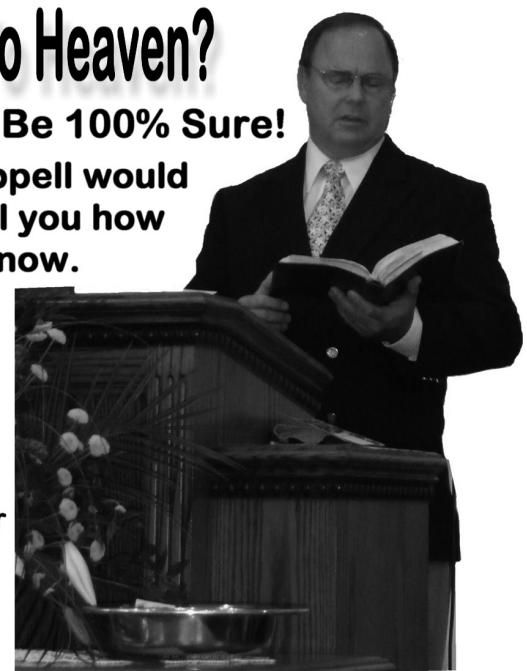


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Every Sunday

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Time: 10:00 AM



**Place: Talk Of The Town
 Time: 6:00 PM**

Ease out your week with Le Dôme's Sunday à la Carte Brunch

It's more than a tradition... it is a culinary art by Le Dôme's Chef Michael van Dorst



LONDON/PARIS - The tradition of Brunch dates back to the 19th century. This blend of breakfast and lunch was founded on the principles of leisure of the privileged in Britain. Though, it didn't take long before the French adopted this rich tradition and turned it a true culinary art. In 1895 Guy Beringer wrote in a visionary article: "Brunch is cheerful, sociable and inciting. It is talk-compelling. It puts you in a good temper, it

makes you satisfied with yourself and your fellow beings, and it sweeps away the worries of the week." Today the basic principles Beringer described so well, still stand. More than ever Sunday Brunch is a weekly highlight and gives many around the world the perfect moment for recapping and reflection.

Every Sunday

Le Dôme Restaurant is proudly continuing this wonderful tradition! Its

Sunday à la Carte Champagne Brunch contains a carefully selected variety of dishes from which one may choose in any order and as much as desired and always with a chilled glass of champagne on the side.

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◇◇◇

Crispy Pan Fried Red Snapper Fillet, served with an Egg plant Mousse

Or

Pan Fried Duck Breast served with Orange Sauce, Pommes Dauphine and Cauliflower

◇◇◇

Banana Parfait served with a Coconut Sauce and a five Spice Powder



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PALM BEACH - Casa Tua is known on the island for their distinctive authentic Italian dishes including their famous Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings. Chef Gregory Nataf prepares each pizza by hand to your order and bakes them to perfection in their faithful brick oven adding a unique flavor that you can't find anywhere else on the island. The Nataf family has a unique recipe that they acquired from a pizzeria belonging to an Old Italian man from Sicily known throughout Europe as "THE PIZZA MASTER".

Casa Tua pizzas range in price from \$10 to \$16 with outstanding choices such as the Frutti di Mare which is topped with tomato sauce, cheese, seafood, garlic and parsley or the Quattro Stagioni (Vegetarian) which is loaded with the perfect combination of tomato sauce, cheese, artichoke, marinated sweet red pepper, Paris white mushrooms and ripe olives. Other pizza topping selections include tiger shrimp, goat cheese, tuna, Spanish sausage, smoked salmon with capers



as well as something as simple as a Margarita pizza with just tomato sauce & cheese or add ham or pepperoni.

Casa Tua presents a fresh approach to dining in Aruba.

The **outdoor atmosphere** is cool and relaxed; the name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian. The menu doesn't stop with just pizzas at **Casa Tua**. They feature incredible appetizers including shrimp bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing salads, **homemade soups starting at \$6** and **authentic Italian lasagnas & pasta dishes starting at just \$14**. Every dish is perfect from the Fettuccini Alfredo which is the famous Roman dish made with cheese, cream butter, fresh, dried basil and garlic to the Linguine Tarentina which is jumbo shrimps, fresh tomato sauce with fish squid



wine or other beverages.

After just one dinner at **Casa Tua**, you'll know you're home in this family owned eatery. Victor Nataf and his son Gregory are always there to welcome you with the rest of their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his father, aunt and uncles who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than **Casa Tua** with their dreamy **Tiramisu, Profiterolles au Chocolat chaud, or Banana 'Casa Tua'**. Located at Arawak Gardens

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At the Crystal Theater

"Havana Dance," is the hottest Cuban show on the island



ORANJESTAD - The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent "Havana

Dance" explodes on stage with a thrilling mix of Latin & Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy, contemporary Cuban



dance.

"Havana Dance" is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. The show delivers a purely Cuban spectacle, with a cast of 12 female ballerinas, 4 male dancers, 2 singers and 3 acrobats, performing a fresh program accompanied by live Cuban music performed on stage by a genuine Cuban orchestra, consisting of 5 professional Cuban musicians. This live dance AND live music combination as seen in our pictures, is 'first of its kind' on the island.

While the greater part of the "Havana Dance" review enjoys predominantly Cuban flavor, the show is graced with a truly unique Caribbean choreography, and many tropical touches. "Havana Dance" unfolds on a two-tiered stage, with entrances and exits to and off the arena at different heights, which presents a



new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set "Havana Dance" apart from any other cabaret.

Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedentedly-successful seven-year run with his previous "Let's Go Latin" review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle.

Tickets for "Havana Dance" are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.-

Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased

at the concierge's desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort.

Other ticket vendors include the De Palm Tours and Pelican Adventure Activity Centers at the resorts. A special dinner & show package is also available in conjunction with the L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House for US\$89.- per person.

For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357. Don't miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of "Havana Dance." □

Driftwood Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant offers diners the ultimate dining experience in freshly line caught fish.

ORANJESTAD - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it."

The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner, enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.

Q: Why do we serve only fresh line caught fish?

A: How fresh would you be after a net caught fish frozen import from Asia?



Driftwood restaurant has a long tradition of serving the best seafood and steaks for over 20 years!

Don't forget to make this a must dine at restaurant while on vacation, you are sure to indulge in some great tasty seafood.



Restaurant information and reservation: open daily (closed on Tuesdays) from 5pm-10:30pm. Tel. 583-2515. Located at Klipstraat 12 in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, within driving distance from the resorts. □



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your



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Legendary Reggae Band The Wailers to Headline The 29th Annual St. Maarten Heineken Regatta



St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles [February 16, 2009]- The legendary Wailers, who are the greatest exponents of reggae music in the world, are now confirmed to headline the 29th St. Maarten Heineken Regatta on Sunday, March 8, 2009 as part of the Serious Fun celebrations. The band, recognized worldwide as the only group still capable

of delivering Bob Marley's message of peace, love and equality will be performing on Kim Sha Beach to close out the Caribbean's largest regatta. The Wailers have brought reggae music to every corner of the globe, selling over 250 million albums and playing to an estimated 24 million people. The group is now led by bassist and musical director

Aston "Family Man" Barrett, the group's sole surviving founder and driving musical force, who was well known as Bob Marley's right hand-man during the singer's lifetime. The current Wailers - a group that's one of the last, great reggae institutions - refuses to live off past glories; where "Family Man" represents tried and trusted roots authenticity, singer Elan Atias, injects fresh excitement into a show that continues to attract enthusiastic audiences from around the world. "The Wailers are one of the legendary Caribbean bands that have helped define reggae music," says John Leone, Director of Heineken St Maarten. "They have brought reggae out of the Caribbean and onto the world music scene for all to enjoy. Although we certainly can never replace Bob Marley, Peter Tosh and others from the original band, the band still drives on to spread great music and great times all over the world. I feel the Wailers' music is just the message we

all need to hear right now. Imagine your feet in the sand on a beautiful night, surrounded by people from all over the world together singing 'One Love' and 'Don't worry... about a thing... 'Cause every little thing... is gonna be alright!' We are honored to have them perform here for the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, it will be a performance to remember, a whole day to be enjoyed, and a St. Maarten Heineken Regatta to never forget!" "The Heineken St. Maarten Regatta is globally renowned for its commitment to Serious Fun by annually presenting the best in music to its international sailing competitors and the local audience" said Christine Hansen, President & CEO of Thirty-Three Productions, Inc. "We are thrilled to bring the legendary Wailers for the 29th Anniversary and to again deliver world class talent to Heineken and the people of St. Maarten for this year's Regatta." Closing out the regatta will be a day of reggae music on Kim

Sha Beach, The organizers are calling the day "Reggaegatta", a fun mix of Reggae and Regatta. The "Reggaegatta" festivities on Sunday are planned for the whole family to enjoy with food, drinks and great music.

The day's line-up will have the best of the local reggae bands Ras Bushman, Barbwire Band, Roots down below and the internationally renowned home-grown heroes Orange Grove. Sunday activities will kick off at 12:00PM noon. The four-day event concludes with The Wailers' performance later that night and promises to be an unforgettable experience. Other acts that have been announced for the regatta weekend, which starts on Thursday March 5 through Sunday March 8, are 3-Cylinder from Antigua, CaRiMi with Haitian roots and Kes the Band from Trinidad, along with St. Maarten's best local talent. Visit www.wailers.com or www.heinekenregatta.com for more information. □

No time to lose

All indications are that Curaçao will go to the polls for the island's third constitutional referendum in 15 years on May 8, a date that may prove important for St. Maarten as well. After all, if a majority says "no" to the question whether they approve of the result of the Round Table Conference (RTC) to come to an autonomous Curaçao within the Kingdom, it could have consequences for the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles and for St. Maarten obtaining that same status.

It "could," but "shouldn't," because it simply wouldn't be fair to St. Maarten, which already had to endure a considerable delay when the former Island Government coalition of Curaçao first rejected the Final Statement agreed on by all Kingdom partners involved at the table, only for the current coalition to reverse that decision and get the constitutional change process back on track later.

Realistically speaking, however, a "no" vote in Curaçao can in any case be expected to delay the process for St. Maarten to



become an autonomous country as well, taking into account that the question "what now?" when it comes to the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles would have to be answered.

Even with a "yes" vote in Curaçao, the current target date of early 2010 for the new relations changes to take effect will be difficult to make at best. However, doing so is becoming increasingly important for several reasons.

In addition to the fact that any more delays after at least two target dates were already changed will further de-motivate the people and erode much-needed support for the process, the economic problems the Netherlands too is feeling after years of prosperity

almost certainly will divert attention from the islands and make getting things done for them more difficult. Not only that, but the political climate in the Netherlands is changing and the right-wing politicians who basically view the Dutch Caribbean as a nuisance are receiving more and more support among the electorate. If the changes agreed on are going to be realized, it needs to happen now, but because Curaçao chose to have the referendum St. Maarten has little choice but to prepare a fall-back position in case of a "no" vote. In doing so, however, the choice of the majority to step out of the Antilles but remain in the Kingdom must be respected at all times. □



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The early morning sunrise at the White House in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009, as President Barack Obama gets ready to leave for his first foreign trip to Canada later this morning.

Associated Press

Obama tries to halt talk of bank nationalization

By BEN FELLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The White House on Friday insisted it's not trying to take over two ailing financial institutions, even as stocks tumbled again. On Wall Street, talk of nationalization of Citigroup Inc., and Bank of America Corp., prompted investors to continue to balk, worried that the government would have to take control and wipe out shareholders in the process.

Citigroup fell 20 percent, while Bank of America fell 12 percent in afternoon trading but also came off their lowest levels.

"This administration continues to strongly believe that a privately held banking system is the correct way to go, ensuring that they are regulated sufficiently by this government," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said when asked about nationalizing the banks.

"That's been our belief for quite some time, and we continue to have that," Gibbs said.

Investors have shown decreasing confidence that U.S. banks can right themselves. Citigroup and Bank of America have already received significant help from taxpayers as the government has rushed in to try to save the financial sector, which has been choked by bad assets and seen the flow of credit shrink.

The speculation about the two banks' future continued to take a direct toll on the market.

Gibbs was pressed for more details on his answer — specifically whether Obama would not nationalize banks. He said it was hard for him to be any clearer.

When a reporter suggested Gibbs could do that by saying point bank that Obama would never nationalize banks, Gibbs would not make that statement, but emphasized: "I think I was very clear about the system that this country has and will continue to have." □

George Mason picks drag queen as homecoming queen



In this photo courtesy of Teddy Meyer/Broadside, Ryan Allen, competing under his drag queen persona of Reann Ballslee, waves to the crowd at the Patriot Center in Fairfax, Va., after being crowned Ms. Mason on Feb. 14, 2009. Allen beat out two women for the homecoming queen title at the 30,000-student George Mason University in suburban Washington, D.C.

Associated Press

FAIRFAX, Va. — George Mason University senior Ryan Allen dresses in drag and doesn't mind being called a queen — homecoming queen, to be exact.

Allen, who is gay and performs in drag at nightclubs in the region, said he entered the homecoming contest as a joke, competing as Reann Ballslee, his drag queen persona.

Continued on Page B5



Alleged members of a criminal gang are shown to the press at a police station in Ciudad Juarez, northern Mexico, Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009. Police were put on alert after several signs appeared across Ciudad Juarez warning that more officers would be killed unless the police chief resigns, a day after the second-in-command and three other officers were slain.

Associated Press

Gangs kill Mexican cops to force ouster of chief

By JULIE WATSON

Associated Press Writer

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — Gunmen killed a police officer and a jail guard Friday and left signs on their bodies saying they had fulfilled a promise to slay at least one officer every 48 hours until the Ciudad Juarez police chief resigns.

Continued on Page B7

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Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn responds to a question after calling on Sen. Roland Burris, D-Ill., to resign during a news conference in Chicago, Friday, Feb. 20, 2009.

Associated Press

By DEANNA BELLANDI

Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO—U.S. Sen. Roland



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III. governor: Burris should resign from U.S. Senate

fellow Democrats calling for his resignation following new disclosures about his controversial appointment, while the White House urged the senator to take the weekend to consider his future.

Burris began the week with passionate defenses, proclaiming he had nothing to hide even as revelations mounted about his attempts to raise money for his disgraced patron, former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, and his failures to disclose multiple conversations with Blagojevich advisers.

By Friday, Burris eluded reporters and only repeated pleas through his spokesman to "stop the rush to judgment." The junior senator scheduled private visits to a veterans medical center and naval training center north of Chicago but did not speak publicly.

Quinn praised Burris, a former Illinois attorney general, as an honorable man and said Friday it would be a "heroic act" for him to put the interests of the state and his constituents ahead of his own.

"It takes a great deal of fortitude and courage to do that and I think people will recognize that," Quinn said. "It's never easy to step aside and resign from anything in life, especially something as important as United States Senate."

Burris, meanwhile, gave no indication he would heed the calls to give up the coveted seat.

"Like he said before, he's asked the public and officials to stop the rush to judgment

and to allow all of the facts to come out," spokesman Jim O'Connor said.

Burris testified before the Illinois House committee that recommended Blagojevich's impeachment in January that he hadn't contacted key Blagojevich staffers or offered anything in return for the Senate seat vacated by President Barack Obama. Blagojevich faces federal charges that he tried to sell the seat.

Last weekend, however, Burris released an affidavit saying he had spoken to several Blagojevich advisers, including the former governor's brother and finance chairman, who Burris said called three times last fall asking for fundraising help. Burris this week acknowledged trying, unsuccessfully, to raise money for Blagojevich.

Illinois lawmakers have asked prosecutors to look into perjury charges, and a preliminary U.S. Senate Ethics Committee inquiry is under way. State Rep. Jack Franks introduced a resolution urging the Illinois Senate Ethics Committee to expel Burris.

In the event Burris resigns or is expelled, Quinn has implored lawmakers to quickly pass legislation, already introduced by Franks, to fill any Senate vacancy by special election rather than gubernatorial appointment.

Quinn wants the Illinois Legislature to allow him to name a temporary replacement to a vacant seat until a special election could be held. He declined to say who he might

appoint if Burris steps aside. "At no time should our state go without full and fair representation in the United States Senate," Quinn said.

Illinois Republicans don't want to wait for Burris to quit and are calling for a May 26 election even if he doesn't resign.

The GOP argues Burris' appointment is only good until the next election, so they want to move up the next one and let voters decide—effectively kicking him out if he doesn't win.

Illinois lawmakers had considered stripping Blagojevich of his Senate appointment powers after his Dec. 9 arrest on federal corruption charges, but they couldn't agree on legislation. Blagojevich shocked everyone by naming Burris to the seat Dec. 30.

Rikeesha Phelon, a spokeswoman for Illinois Senate President John Cullerton, said the Democrat was "open" to special elections but has not committed to a proposal. Cullerton has not called for Burris' resignation, saying he wants investigations to play out. Democratic House Speaker Michael Madigan's spokesman, Steve Brown, said they're reviewing proposed legislation, including where special election funding would come from.

GOP state Sen. Matt Murphy has estimated a special election could cost \$5 million to \$25 million. Quinn said money shouldn't hinder voters from picking their next senator. □

AP IMPACT: Most fertility clinics break the rules

By STEPHANIE NANO

Associated Press Write

NEW YORK – The California fertility doctor who implanted the octuplet mom with lots of embryos was no lone wolf: Fewer than 20 percent of U.S. clinics follow professional guidelines on how many embryos should be used for younger women. "Clearly, most programs are not adhering to the guidelines," said Dr. Bradley Van Voorhis, director of the fertility clinic at the University of Iowa.

The furor over Nadya Suleman and her octuplets has brought scrutiny to U.S. fertility clinics and how well they observe the guidelines, which are purely voluntary. The controversy had led to talk of passing laws to regulate clinics, something that has already been done in Western Europe.

"There are enough clinics that quite openly flout professional guidelines that we really do need to start thinking about public policy in this area," said Marcy Darnovsky of the Oakland, Calif.-based Center for Genetics and Society, a public interest group. "I think it's way overdue."

The 20 percent figure is contained in reports filed by clinics with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Fertility doctors say there are many reasons clinics skirt the guidelines: pressure from patients who want to use more embryos to improve their chances of getting pregnant; financial concerns from those who are paying for their treatment out of their own pockets; and the competition among clinics to post good success rates.

And the only penalty for violating the guidelines is expulsion from some of the industry's professional organizations, though that can affect whether insurance companies will cover a clinic's treatments.

"You have patients who are desperate and you have doctors who are driven by success rates. It's not a good combination," said Pamela Madsen, founder and former head of the American Fertility Association.

When the guidelines were issued in 1996 by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, the intent was to cut down the number of multiple births, particularly triplets and higher, that can result when many embryos are implanted and more than one takes. Big multiple births can lead to disastrous, life-threatening complications, lifelong disabilities such as cerebral palsy, and crushing medical costs.

The guidelines suggest how many embryos doctors should use, with the number varying by age and other factors. They also allow for some flexibility for more if previous attempts have failed or the embryo quality is poor.

"These decisions are complex and need to be individualized, which is why we strongly believe that guidelines are better than hard rules," said Dr. David Adamson, a former president of the reproductive medicine society.

The group credits the guidelines with reducing triplets and higher multiple pregnancies from 7 percent

of attempts to 2 percent in 2006. Nearly two-thirds of the procedures involved four or more embryos in 1996; that has fallen to 16 percent.

But for women under 35, government records show that just 83 of 426 clinics followed the guidance calling for one and no more than two embryos. The average for fresh embryos (as opposed to frozen) implanted in women in that age group ranged from a 1.4 to 4.8. The vast majority of the clinics averaged between two and three embryos.

Dr. Mousa Shamonki, director of the IVF program at the University of California, Los Angeles, said his patients frequently ask for more embryos to boost their chances of getting pregnant. He tells patients that it's not OK to end up with triplets or even twins. "The only thing that happens when you add additional embryos is you're increasing the multiple pregnancy rate," he said. "You're rarely increasing the overall pregnancy rate significantly." The UCLA program had one of the highest transfer rates in



The entrance to Dr. Michael Kamrava's office is seen in Beverly Hills, Calif., Monday, Feb. 9, 2009. The mother who gave birth to octuplets identified the West Coast IVF Clinic in Beverly Hills as the one which provided in-vitro fertilization for all 14 of her children.

Associated Press

2006 for younger women. That rate — 3.5 embryos per cycle — matched that of the West Coast IVF Clinic in Beverly Hills, Calif., where Suleman was treated. Shamonki said changes he implemented after he took over drove down UCLA's rate to 2.1 embryos the next year.

Fertility specialists have attacked Suleman's doctor, Michael Kamrava, for using

so many embryos. Suleman, 33, has said she had six embryos implanted; two presumably split. She said she refused selective abortion to reduce the number, which is a common option in such cases. Kamrava has declined requests for interviews.

The reproductive medicine society and the Medical Board of California are looking into the case. □

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Obama warns mayors not to waste stimulus money



President Barack Obama addresses mayors from across the country, Friday, Feb. 20, 2009, in the East Room of the White House in Washington. A teleprompter, with a chandelier reflected in it is seen at right.

WASHINGTON—Invoking his own name-and-shame policy, President Barack Obama warned the nation's mayors on Friday that he will "call them out" if they waste the money from his massive economic stimulus plan.

"The American people are watching," Obama told a gathering of mayors at the White House. "They need this plan to work. They expect to see the money that they've earned — they've worked so hard to earn — spent in its

intended purposes without waste, without inefficiency, without fraud."

In the days since the White House and Congress came to terms on the \$787 billion economic package, the political focus has shifted to how it will work. Obama

Associated Press

has staked his reputation not just on the promise of 3.5 million jobs saved or created, but also on a pledge to let the public see where the money goes.

His budget chief this week released a 25,000-word document that details exactly how Cabinet and executive agencies, states and local organizations must report spending. It is a system meant to streamline reports so they can be displayed on the administration's new Web site, Recovery.gov.

Using his presidential podium, Obama demanded accountability, from his friends in local government as well as his own agencies.

He said the new legislation gives him tools to "watch the taxpayers' money with more rigor and transparency than ever," and that he will use them.

"If a federal agency proposes a project that will waste that money, I will not hesitate to call them out

on it, and put a stop to it," he said. "I want everyone here to be on notice that if a local government does the same, I will call them out on it, and use the full power of my office and our administration to stop it." Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, who leads the U.S. Conference of Mayors, said he welcomed Obama's warning.

"Absolutely. We get called out every day at the local level," Diaz said, drawing laughs from other mayors in a gathering with reporters on the White House driveway. "We have plenty of constituents who will be doing that before the president does."

Mayors of both parties said they appreciated the invitation to meet with Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and a handful of Cabinet secretaries. They cautioned, though, that the stimulus plan will only work if leaders at the state level direct the money to their cities in a clear, timely way.

The economic plan will inject a sudden boost of cash into transportation, education, energy and health care. Beyond new spending, it aims to aid people through a package of tax cuts, extended unemployment benefits and short-term health insurance help. The cost will be added to a growing budget deficit.

Obama said government leaders have asked for the "unprecedented trust of the American people."

"With that comes unprecedented obligations to spend that money wisely, free from politics and free from personal agendas," he said.

The president did not specify how, exactly, he would call out one of his own agencies or a local government about wasteful projects. □

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DRAQ QUEEN*Continued from Page B1*

But he considers the victory one of his happiest moments and proof that the suburban Washington, D.C., school famous for its run to the Final Four a few years back celebrates its diverse student body.

"I was very touched by how Mason was so supportive through the whole process of allowing a boy in a dress to run for homecoming queen," Allen said in a phone interview. "It says a lot about the campus that not only do we have diversity but we celebrate it."

The senior from Virginia's Goochland County won the pageant Saturday at a sold-out Homecoming basketball game against Northeastern University.

Large portions of the crowd cheered as Allen, wearing a

gold-sequined top, accepted the tiara and the Ms. Mason 2009 sash.

The school, known for racial diversity and a basketball team that pulled off a string of upsets to advance to the Final Four in 2006, was selected the nation's top "school to watch" in the most recent U.S. News and World Report rankings.

Allen's selection does not appear to have caused much consternation among the school's 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students. An online article in the student newspaper prompted only two comments, both positive.

Alyssa Cordova, an officer with the school's College Republicans, said she didn't pay much attention to Allen's election and is surprised by the media attention it has received.

"I just think it's kind of silly," she said. Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equity and a former adjunct professor at Mason, said the lack of controversy "shows that the students and the George Mason community have a good sense of perspective." University spokesman Dan Walsch said the school is "very comfortable" with Allen's selection and the contest rules are not sex-specific.

"It's just that if you're a man who runs for Ms., you've got to dress the part," Walsch said.

The contest was half talent judging and half voting by the student body. Allen received the most votes but doesn't know how he scored in the talent competition, in which he performed in

zebra-print pants and lip-synched to Britney Spears. He said his drag queen persona is fairly popular and well-known on campus — he has hosted events as Reann for the school's Pride Week, as well as HIV charity shows and an

amateur drag night cabaret. "Reann is very sassy, very silly. She's an entertainer throughout. She's not afraid to do a high kick if that's what it takes," Allen said. "She's got a little camp but is not as campy as some queens." □



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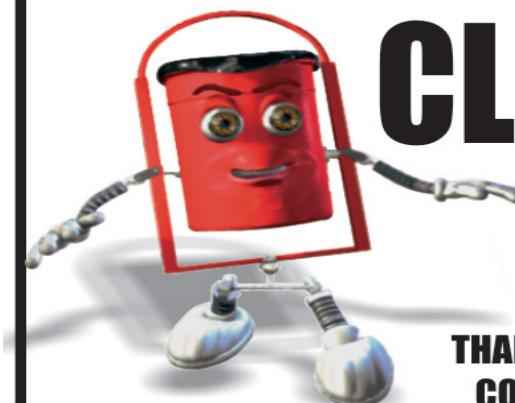
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In this file photo dated 2000 and released by the human rights and legal defense organization Reprieve, Guantanamo detainee Binyam Mohamed is pictured in London. Mohamed, a former U.K. resident who alleges he was tortured while in U.S. custody will soon be released from Guantanamo Bay and sent back to Britain, authorities said Friday, Feb. 20, 2009.

Associated Press

Guantanamo Bay inmate to be sent to Britain

By RAPHAEL G. SATTER

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — A former U.K. resident who alleges he was tortured while in U.S. custody will soon be released from Guantanamo Bay and sent back to Britain, authorities said Friday.

Binyam Mohamed — accused by U.S. authorities of conspiring to take part in a dirty bomb plot and training in al-Qaida camps — was kept at the military prison camp even though charges against him were dropped in October.

The announcement of his release had been widely anticipated after President Barack Obama took office pledging to close Guantanamo and return as many detainees

as possible to their home countries. Britain's foreign secretary, David Miliband, has been lobbying for Mohamed's return to Britain since 2007.

Three other men with ties to Britain — Jordanian Jamil el-Banna, Libyan-born Omar Deghayes and Algerian Abdennour Sameur — were returned from Guantanamo in December 2007.

At the time, the U.S. cited "additional security concerns" for its refusal to return Mohamed and another former U.K. resident, Saudi-born Shaker Aamer.

Aamer remains at Guantanamo Bay, and British authorities have said they are not actively seeking his return. The U.S. has accused him of having links to al-Qaida, but he denies the allegations and has not been charged.

It was not immediately clear when exactly Mohamed, 30, would be back in Britain. He had been on hunger strike for more than a month to protest his detention, but Britain's Foreign Office said a British doctor had examined him and found him medically fit to travel.

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Jeffrey Gordon, a Pentagon spokesman, said that as a matter of policy the military does not comment on transfers

from Guantanamo until they are completed.

Mohamed, an Ethiopian refugee who moved to Britain when he was 15, was arrested in Pakistan on a visa violation and turned over to his American authorities, according to human rights group Reprieve.

Mohamed alleges he was beaten in Pakistan and tortured in Morocco and Afghanistan before being moved to the U.S. facility in Cuba in September 2004. Washington has never publicly acknowledged extraordinary renditions to places such as Morocco and still refuses to say where Mohamed was before he was taken to Guantanamo.

His case caused concern in Britain when it was disclosed that Mohamed had been interviewed by British intelligence before his transfer to Guantanamo. Mohamed's lawyers allege that intelligence had evidence that he was being mistreated, but British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has insisted that U.K. always acted lawfully, telling reporters last week there had been "no cover up whatsoever" in the case.

Mohamed's lawyer military lawyer, Air Force Lt. Col. Yvonne Bradley, said she was pleased Mohamed's long detention was coming to an

end.

"It's been a very long time," Bradley said. "We're all happy he's finally being released and we've been able to get him back." She said Mohamed's health will be monitored on the flight back from Cuba.

The Foreign Office said Mohamed would be returned to the U.K. "as soon as the practical arrangements can be made," but added that does not mean he can stay in the country indefinitely.

"His immigration status will be reviewed following his return and the same security considerations will apply to him as would apply to any other foreign national in this country," the Foreign Office said.

Reprieve, the human rights group, said his legal residency in the U.K. expired because he was prevented from renewing it while being detained.

Amnesty International also welcomed news of the release, but said the U.K. needed "a proper independent inquiry into Binyam's case and allegations of a cover-up of torture."

Britain's attorney general, Baroness Patricia Scotland, began an inquiry into her country's handling of Mohamed's case in October but has yet to deliver a report.

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<input type="checkbox"/> PG-13	HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU	daily: 3:55	6:40	9:15		
		matinee: 1:10		late show: 11:55		
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		matinee: 12:00	2:05	late show: 12:25		
<input type="checkbox"/> R	UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS	daily: 3:50	5:50	7:55	10:00	
		matinee: 11:55	1:50	late show: 12:00		
<input type="checkbox"/> PG	HOTEL FOR DOGS	daily: 5:30	7:50	10:10		
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		matinee: 12:15	2:15	late show: 12:15		
<input type="checkbox"/> PG	THE PINK PANTHER 2	daily: 3:45	5:50	7:50	9:55	
		matinee: 1:40		late show: 12:10		
<input type="checkbox"/> PG-13	TAKEN	daily: 4:10	6:20	8:15	10:20	
		matinee: 12:00	2:05	late show: 12:20		
<input type="checkbox"/> R	FRIDAY THE 13TH	daily: 5:40	7:55	10:00		
		matinee: 1:20	3:30	late show: 12:05		
<input type="checkbox"/> PG	HOTEL FOR DOGS	daily: 4:20	6:40	8:55		
		matinee: 11:55	2:10	late show: 11:10		
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MEXICAN COPS

Continued from Page B1

The slayings were a chilling sign that criminal gangs are determined to control the police force of the biggest Mexican border city, with a population of 1.3 million people across from El Paso, Texas.

Ciudad Juarez police have long come under attack, and many officers have quit out of fear for their lives, some after their names appeared on hit lists left in public throughout the city. Police officer Cesar Ivan Portillo was the fifth officer killed this week in Mexico's deadliest city.

Police already were on "red alert" — meaning they could not patrol alone — after cardboard signs with handwritten messages appeared taped to the doors and windows of businesses Wednesday, warning that one officer would be killed every 48 hours if Public Safety Secretary Roberto Orduna does not quit.

Mayor Jose Reyes Ferriz insisted Friday that he would not back down.

"We will not allow the control of the police force to fall in the hands of criminal gangs," he said.

More than 6,000 people have been killed in drug violence across Mexico over the past year as gangs battle each other for territory and to fight off a nationwide crackdown by the army. Nearly a third of the slayings have taken place in Ciudad Juarez, and more than 50 of those dead are city police officers.

Violence also has spilled across the border into the U.S., where authorities report a spike in killings, kidnappings and home invasions connected to Mexico's murderous cartels.

Homeland Security officials have said they will bring in the military if the violence continues to grow and threatens the U.S. border region.

"The violence is spreading like wildfire across the Rio Grande," said George Greyson, a Mexico expert at the College of William & Mary in Virginia. "It's a major national security problem for us that is much more important

than Iraq and Afghanistan."

Also Friday, the U.S. State Department renewed a travel advisory warning Americans about the increased violence along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Some Mexicans have questioned whether President Feline Caldron's two-year, nationwide crackdown on drug gangs was worth all the killings.

But Caldron and his administration have defended the fight, with Economy Secretary Gerard Ruin Mattes saying on Wednesday that if Mexico gave up its fight against the cartels, "the next president of the republic would be a drug dealer."

Portillo and city jail guard Juan Palo Ruin were killed as they left their homes before dawn to head to work, city spokesman Jaime Toreros said.

Three days earlier, assailants fatally shot police operations director Sacramento Peruse, the chief's right-hand man, and three other officers who were sitting with him in a patrol car near the U.S. consulate.

The bodies of Peruse and one of the officers were sent to their home states Thursday to be buried, and the city planned to hold a ceremony Friday for the two others from Ciudad Juarez. City spokesman Jaime Toreros said police have been asked to patrol with their guns in their hands.

Reyes Ferriz earlier ordered police to travel in groups of three patrol cars, with two officers in each vehicle.

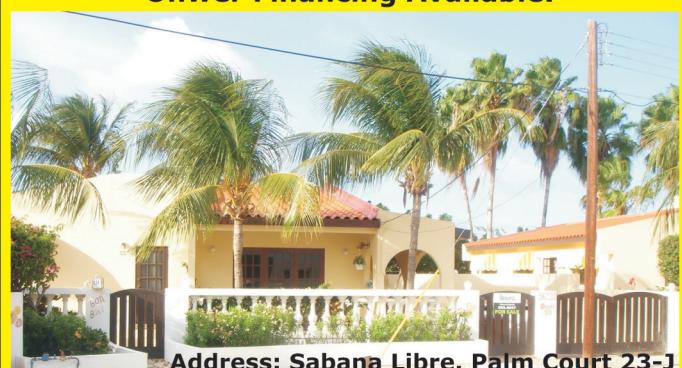
Orduna has not spoken publicly since the threats. A retired army major, he took over as chief in May after former Public Safety Secretary Guillermo Prieto resigned and fled to El Paso following the slaying of his operations director.

For Orduna's protection, the city has built his bedroom at the police station so he does not have to go home. He also travels in different vehicles when he does go out. □



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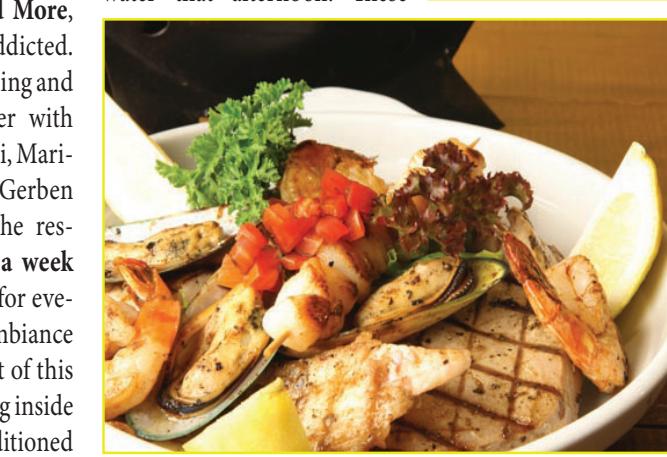
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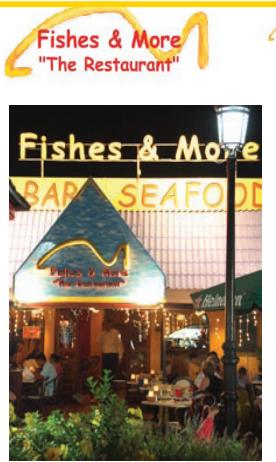


dinning room or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music. Most guests come in early for the daily fresh catches, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice.

Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These



specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps. Fishes and More is for everyone, from large groups, families, couples and even singles who can't shake the seafood addiction can stop in for a fix of Pina Colada Shrimp. For those who like to try something different or have had their fill of spectacular seafood, the chef prepares a wonderful array of filet mignon, rib eye, wiener schnitzel, veal parmesan, and pasta specialties. Great Seafood!!! Fun and relaxed atmosphere. Right across from the high rise hotels. It is worth the short walk to a wonderful dinner □



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This is a July 31, 2008 file photo showing Oakland Raiders cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha during football training camp in Napa, Calif.

Associated Press

Raiders break record to re-sign Nnamdi Asomugha

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha became the highest paid defensive back in NFL history when he re-signed with the Oakland Raiders on Thursday, agreeing to a three-year, \$45.3 million deal.

Asomugha, who's heading into his seventh NFL season, is one of the league's elite cover defenders. He was selected for the Pro Bowl and chosen to the AP All-Pro team last season despite getting just one interception because Oakland's opponents rarely dared to throw to his side of the field.

Asomugha is guaranteed \$28.5 million in the first two years of the contract. The Raiders have an option for a third year in 2011, which would be worth either \$16.8 million or the amount of the quarterback franchise tag, whichever is greater.

It was the second major re-signing in two days for the Raiders to negate potential free agency departures. On Wednesday, Oakland re-signed All-Pro Shane Lechler to a four-year contract that was the biggest given to a punter in NFL history.

Raiders owner Al Davis had been unsure whether to use his franchise player tag on Lechler or Asomugha, who got it last season. Instead, he paid top dollar to keep both. □

Venus beats Serena in Dubai semifinals

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Venus Williams beat younger sister Serena 6-1, 2-6, 7-6 (3) Friday to reach the final of the Dubai Tennis Championship.

The sixth-seeded Venus dominated the first set at the Aviation Club as Serena struggled with her serves.

"I loved the way the first set went," said Venus, who will face Virginie Razzano of France in Saturday's final. "I just had two second serves in the whole of the first set."

Venus now leads the career series between the American sisters 10-9.

"I think my serve has gone somewhere on vacation and I need to go there and catch up with it," said Serena, the Australian Open champion. "Venus played well, and served really well, which was the difference."

Serena hit her first ace in the second game of the second set to save a break point, and then



Former San Francisco Giants baseball player Barry Bonds, left, leaves the federal courthouse in San Francisco on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009. Bonds is charged with lying to a grand jury by saying he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs.

Associated Press

By PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The government's case against Barry Bonds has suffered a setback.

A federal judge ruled Thursday that prosecutors cannot show jurors three positive steroid tests and other key evidence in the slugger's trial next month.

U.S. District Judge Susan



Venus Williams from the U.S. returns the ball to her sister Serena Williams during the semi finals of Dubai WTA Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Friday, Feb. 20, 2009.

Associated Press

hit another to make it 1-1 before breaking her sister twice.

"She fought back well after that, and I was still trying to

finish the points quickly in the second set," Venus said. "But when I saw that she was playing better, I had to change my game

Judge bars use of drug tests in Bonds' trial

Illston said the urine samples that tested positive for steroids are inadmissible because prosecutors cannot prove conclusively that they belong to Bonds. The judge also barred prosecutors from showing jurors so-called doping calendars that Bonds' personal trainer, Greg Anderson, allegedly maintained for the slugger.

The judge said prosecutors need direct testimony from Anderson to introduce such evidence. Anderson's attorney said the trainer will refuse to testify at Bonds' trial even though he is likely to be sent to prison on contempt of court charges.

Prosecutors could not immediately be reached to determine whether they planned an appeal, which would delay the start of the scheduled March 2 trial.

Bonds has pleaded not guilty to lying to a grand jury on Dec. 4, 2003 when he denied

knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs.

Prosecutors allege Anderson collected the urine samples and delivered them for testing to the Bay Area Laboratory Cooperative.

During a September 2003 raid, federal investigators seized the positive test results that they allege belong to Bonds along with 21 other blood and urine samples that tested negative.

Prosecutors wanted to use all the tests to show that Bonds was a knowledgeable steroids consumer because he was a frequent customer of BALCO, the center of a massive sports doping ring.

Prosecutors said the three key tests show positive results in 2000 and 2001 for the steroids nandrolone and methenolone. Sports Illustrated has reported that Alex Rodriguez also tested positive for methenolone in 2003. □

a bit."

The sisters traded breaks in the third set.

"I was pleased with the win, but I would have been more pleased if it was the final," Venus said. "It definitely was a final-quality match. After all, she is the No. 1 player in the world and we are the best players in the world. She is one player I respect most on the tour, so it feels very satisfying."

Serena appeared to be bothered by a lingering knee injury which forced her to pull out of last week's Open GDF Suez semifinals.

"I am looking forward to a break before I play Miami," Serena said. "I really need it and I think it will be good for my knee. I have never played so much tennis in my whole career."

Razzano beat 16th-seeded Kaia Kanepi of Estonia 6-1, 6-2. The 58th-ranked Frenchwoman had already upset second-seeded Dinara Safina and fifth-seeded Vera Zvonareva in Dubai.

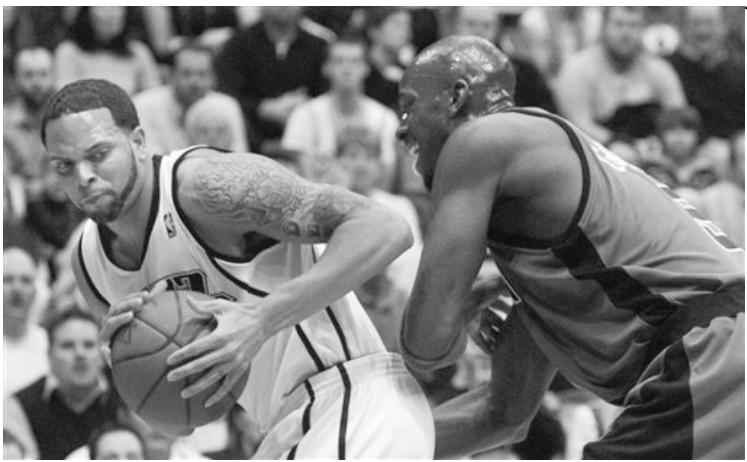
"I am not surprised at my results here," Razzano said. "I know I have the tennis in me to beat the top-ranked players. And I worked very hard on my game during the winter break and I am feeling good about it."

Down a break in the first game of the second set, Kanepi rallied to get to 2-2 but then faded again.

"After a few good matches, I was really looking forward to this one, but nothing worked for me," Kanepi said. "I struggled with my serve, my returns and my overall game."

The Dubai Tennis Championship attracted a quality field this year, with nine of the WTA Tour's top 10 players in the draw. But it was overshadowed by the refusal to allow Israeli player Shahar Peer into the country. Organizers said they feared fan anger over Israel's recent military offensive in the Gaza Strip would spill into riots in the Arab country if Peer were to play.

On Thursday, however, the country said it was issuing a special permit for Israeli tennis player Andy Ram so he can play in next week's men's tournament. □



Utah Jazz guard Deron Williams, left, strips the ball out of the hands of Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett during the first quarter of the NBA basketball game Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009, in Salt Lake City. The referees ruled it a jump ball.

Associated Press

NBA Roundup

Jazz rally to beat Celtics 90-85

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Utah Jazz rallied from an 11-point deficit to beat a rusty-looking Boston Celtics 90-85 on Thursday.

The Celtics were playing for the first time in a week and lost All-Star forward Kevin Garnett late in the second quarter with a strained right knee.

Deron Williams had 18 points and 10 assists to spark the Jazz, which outscored Boston 30-19 in the fourth quarter, closing the game on an 8-2 run.

Mehmet Okur led Utah with 19 points and reserve Matt Harpring had eight points and a clutch rebound as the Jazz pulled away in the final minute.

Paul Pierce's 20 points led the Celtics, who missed a chance to overtake Cleveland for the Eastern Conference's best percentage record.

Boston had a giant scare late in the first half when Garnett hopped to the locker room on one foot after injuring his right knee. Garnett hurt himself while going up for an alley-oop late in the first half. He warmed up with his teammates before the second half, but the Celtics weren't going to take any chances. □

The Jazz got within three or four points several times, but couldn't catch the Celtics until midway through the fourth quarter.

Neither team led by more than three until the Jazz pulled away at the end. Harpring's 15-foot jumper put Utah up 85-83 with 1:01 left, then he pulled down the rebound after Ray Allen

missed on a layup. Williams added a jumper from the top of the key to put the Jazz up by four and Utah held on the rest of the way.

Spurs 83, Pistons 79

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, San Antonio ended a three-game road losing streak by beating Detroit, boosting the Spurs' lead in the Southwest Division to 3-1/2 games.

Tim Duncan had 18 points and 18 rebounds and Tony Parker added 19 points and 11 assists for San Antonio.

Detroit's Allen Iverson led all scorers with 31 points.

San Antonio led 64-58 going into the fourth, but the Pistons it back to 78-77 with 3 minutes to play. Two stops gave the Pistons a pair of chances to take the lead, and Iverson took advantage of the second with a layup with 1:21 to go.

Rasheed Wallace fouled Parker, who gave San Antonio a 80-79 lead from the line, and Iverson missed at the other end.

Wallace grabbed a rebound with 28 seconds left and had a chance to put Detroit back in front, but missed a fadeaway. Bruce Bowen was fouled before he could call timeout. □

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week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-2Bd Supreme,OceanFront US\$30,000	Week# 7 Aruban Resort - 3Bdr R#2506a, poolv - US\$30,000	week# 7+8- DiviLinks - Studio. R#4205,Poolview- US\$30,000
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B RoyalClubGrandLe.-US\$32,000	Week# 5 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#613,PoolOcean-US\$18,000	week# 3 -DiviVillage -studio R#5508,Golfpoolv.-US\$8,000
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B Delux,OceanView- US\$14,000	Week# 6 - The Mill Resort-1Bdr R#220a, Poolview - US\$7,500	week#3+4, DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr R#416,Oceanfrnt-US\$25,000pw
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-JR Suite - OceanView - US\$16,000	FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, Oceanview -US\$ 20,000	week# 4 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#901- Oceanview-US\$11,000
week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-JR. Suite, Oceanview - US\$13,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanView-US\$18,000	week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#1001,Oceanv- US\$10,000
week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-EX Studio, PoolView - US\$9,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr,OceanFront-US\$23,000	week#9-DiviPhoenix-2Bdr/2bath. R#211,Oceanfront- US\$20,000
week#2+3+4,-LaCabana-1Bdx R#401d,OceanFr.-US\$15,000pw	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanView-US\$26,000	2xweek#1-17Occidental-Bdrsup. Oceanfro-US\$35,000Bothweeks
week# 5 + 6-La Cabana - 1Bdr R#401d-OceanFront-US\$18,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000	week# 3 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#209-OceanFront- US\$10,000
week# 6 -DiviPhoenix -1Bdr R#601-Oceanview-US\$10,000	week# 1 -Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#2031,Ocean/pool-US\$25,000	week# 5 - Aruban Resort - 1-Bdr R#5537g-Poolview-US\$7,000
week# 7 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2537, PoolOcean-US\$15,000	week#10, DutchVillage - 2Bdr R#212, on the beach-US\$20,000	weeks# 8, - La Cabana - 1Bdr R#407a-, Oceanview-US\$9,000
week# 3 + 4-Renaissance.-1Bdr R#2142,Oceanv-US\$13,000pw	week# 6+7,Aruban Resort-1Bdr R#4541 ,Poolview-US\$8,000pw	week# 9, DutchVillage - 1Bdr R#123, on the beach-US\$8,000
PlatinumW#1-17,Marriott Surf - 3bdr,OceanView -US\$50,000	week# 11,DutchVillage - 2Bdr. R#46/49,O.The B.-US\$18,000	week# 4 - DiviLinks - Studio. R#2108,Poolv - US\$14,000
PlatinumW#1-17,Marriott Surf 2bdr,Gardenview-US\$25,000	week# 6, Costa Linda - 2 Bdr. R#1010,Oceanview-US\$24,000	week# 10-DiviVillage -studio R#3101,Poolview-US\$10,000
week# 8 , La Cabana -2Bdr R#301E,OceanFr-US\$25,000	week# 9 ,La Cabana B.R.C- stu. R#444B,OceanPool-US\$7,000	week# 5 - DiviLinks - Studio R#2214,PoolV.- US\$14,000
week# 2+3, Renaissance-1Bdr. R#2327,POV- US\$13,000 p.w	week# 4+5,Costa Linda -2Br R#4019,OceanP-US\$60,000	week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 2 Bdr R#302,OceanFront-US\$23,000
week# 3+4 La Cabana -2Bdr. R#346E,OceanFr-US\$25,000pw	week# 4 + 5 DiviPhoenix -studio R#108,Oceanfr.-US\$12,000pw	week# 7-DiviPhoenix - studio R#105,OceanPo,US\$11,500
week#5+6La Cabana-2Bdr. R#346EOceanFr-US\$25,000pw	week#10, DutchVillage - 1 Bdr. R#28 ,on the beach-US\$9,000	week# 3 - DiviVillage - Studio. R#8303,PoolOcean-US\$8,000
week# 4 Aruban Resort- 2Bdr. R#5510,poolview- US\$12,000	2x week2-17,OccidentalGr-1Bd. supreme,Oceanfr. - US\$35,000	week# 11-Divi village -Studio R#8202,Oceanview-US\$10,000
week#-7,Renaissance S. - 1Bdr R#2537,Poocean-US\$15,000	week# 2, ParadiseBV - 2Bdr. R# 207,Ocean/Pool-US\$15,000	week# 5&6-La Cabana - 2Bdr R#440b&c,Oce/p-US\$20,000pw
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide -US\$33,000	week# 3+4, ParadiseB.V - 1Bdr. R#101,Ocean/p-US\$12,000pw	week# 5 - La Cabana -1Br R#336a,Ocean/pool-US\$11,000
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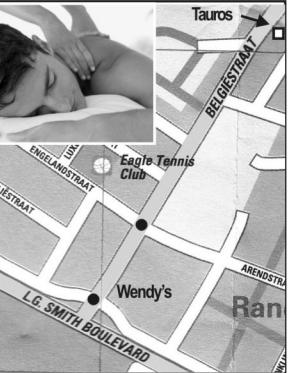
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Venezolanos ricos dicen Chávez los llevó a invertir con Stanford

CARACAS (Reuters) - Venezolanos de clase media y ricos confiaron su dinero al grupo financiero de tejano Allen Stanford, acusado de un "fraude masivo", porque creían que sus ahorros estaban más seguros allí que en los bancos del país gobernado por el presidente Hugo Chávez.

Los fondos de venezolanos representarían más de una cuarta parte de los 8.000 millones de dólares que los investigadores de Estados Unidos dicen fue invertido en certificados de depósitos fraudulentos por parte de Stanford con tasas de interés sospechosamente altas.

El Gobierno local debió intervenir el jueves al banco comercial Stanford, una pequeña operación del holding, después de que la noticia del fraude en Estados Unidos desatará una corrida de depósitos.

Venezolanos ricos y de clase media dicen sentirse

intimidados por Chávez y su discurso populista. Además, impuso límites al flujo de divisas y ha expropiado compañías y tierras. Pero quienes confiaron en el multimillonario Stanford, ahora tienen un nuevo problema.

El regulador bancario estima que los venezolanos han invertido más de 2.000 millones de dólares en sus compañías offshore. "Amamos a ese hombre como amamos a Chávez", dijo irónicamente un elegante y joven inversionista mientras fumaba en una oficina de Stanford, donde centenares de clientes acudieron esta semana desesperadamente en busca de su dinero.

Después del colapso financiero en la década de 1990, los venezolanos elevaron sus ahorros en el exterior, incluso antes de que llegara Chávez a la presidencia.

Ahora, asustados porque la "revolución socialista" pue

finalmente llevarlos a dejar el país, creyeron que era aún mejor momento para dejar su dinero invertido en el exterior. "A la hora de tener que correr de Venezuela es importante tener algo afuera", dijo Mónica Peña, quien invirtió su herencia familiar en Stanford por sus altas tasas de interés. La inflación del país sudamericano, exportador de crudo, supera las tasas ofrecidas por la banca a cuentas de ahorro y los venezolanos, como muchos otros en la región, ven el dólar como una moneda segura.

Chávez, estrecho aliado de Cuba, ha exacerbado la ansiedad con acciones contra el sector privado, como estatizaciones. "¿Dónde vas con tus cuatro lochas? Uno no puede confiar en la banca de aquí y tampoco quieres tener mucho dinero a la mano porque este Gobierno todo te lo quiere quitar", dijo una mujer cuya familia confió a Stanford unos 250.000 dólares.

"Este loco que tenemos aquí te hace sentir que todo tu dinero se te convierte en agua", agregó. Muchos inversionistas

pidieron no ser nombrados porque no quieren ser vistos como adinerados y ser blanco de delincuentes. □

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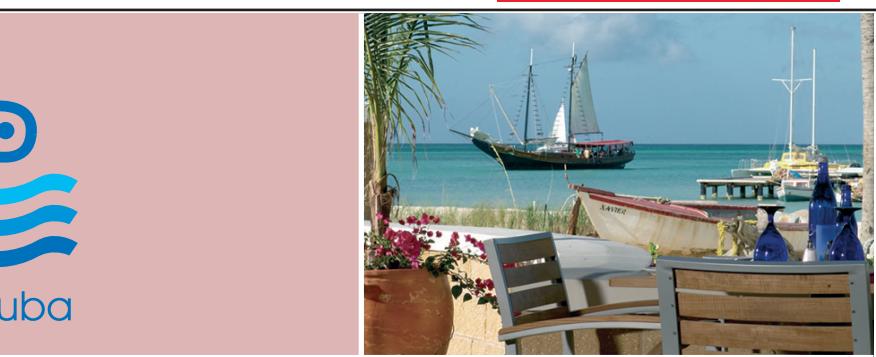
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